

**State of Indiana**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Indianapolis**

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 12 January 2004

TO: John Goss, Director  
Department of Natural Resources

FROM: James A. Gerbracht, Resource Specialist  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendations for 2004 Deer Reductions

After conducting the 2003 deer reductions on properties controlled by the Division of State Parks & Reservoirs and the Division of Nature Preserves, I have compiled the data and have attached the findings. Based on that data and comparing it to the criteria developed by Dr. George Parker of Purdue University, I recommend reductions be implemented at the following State Parks and Nature Preserve:

Chain O'Lakes, Charlestown, Clifty Falls, Fort Harrison, Harmonie, Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, Ouabache, Pokagon, Potato Creek, Shades, Summit Lake, Tippecanoe River, Turkey Run, Whitewater and Twin Swamps Nature Preserve.

The criteria developed by Dr. Parker and adapted by the Department of Natural Resources state that deer reductions should be held until harvest data reach the .2 level of hunter success or the deer removed per square mile reached the 12-16 level.

Although Tippecanoe River has reached the .2 level of hunter success, the deer removed per square mile is still high at 26. Therefore it is included in my recommendation. Once these levels are attained, reductions should be held on an every other year basis unless harvest data exceed these levels. Under those circumstances, a reduction should be conducted the following year. Long term vegetative monitoring may indicate that while this approach is allowing the ecosystem to recover on some properties, others may require more frequent reductions.

<b><u>Park</u></b>	<b><u>Last Hunt</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest/Effort</u></b>	<b><u>Reduction in 2004</u></b>
Brown County	2003	.2	No
Chain O' Lakes	2003	.4	Yes
Charlestown	2003	.3	Yes
Clifty Falls (archery only)	2003	.1	Yes
Fort Harrison (archery only)	2003	.2	Yes
Harmonie	2003	.4	Yes
Indiana Dunes	2003	.3	Yes
Lincoln	2003	.3	Yes
McCormick's Creek	2003	.2	No
Ouabache	2003	.8	Yes
Pokagon	2003	.4	Yes
Potato Creek	2003	.3	Yes
Shades	2003	.3	Yes
Shakamak	2003	.2	No
Spring Mill	2003	.2	No
Summit Lake	2003	.3	Yes
Tippecanoe River	2003	.2	Yes
Turkey Run	2003	.3	Yes
Versailles	2003	.2	No
Whitewater	2003	.3	Yes
Twin Swamps	2003	.8	Yes